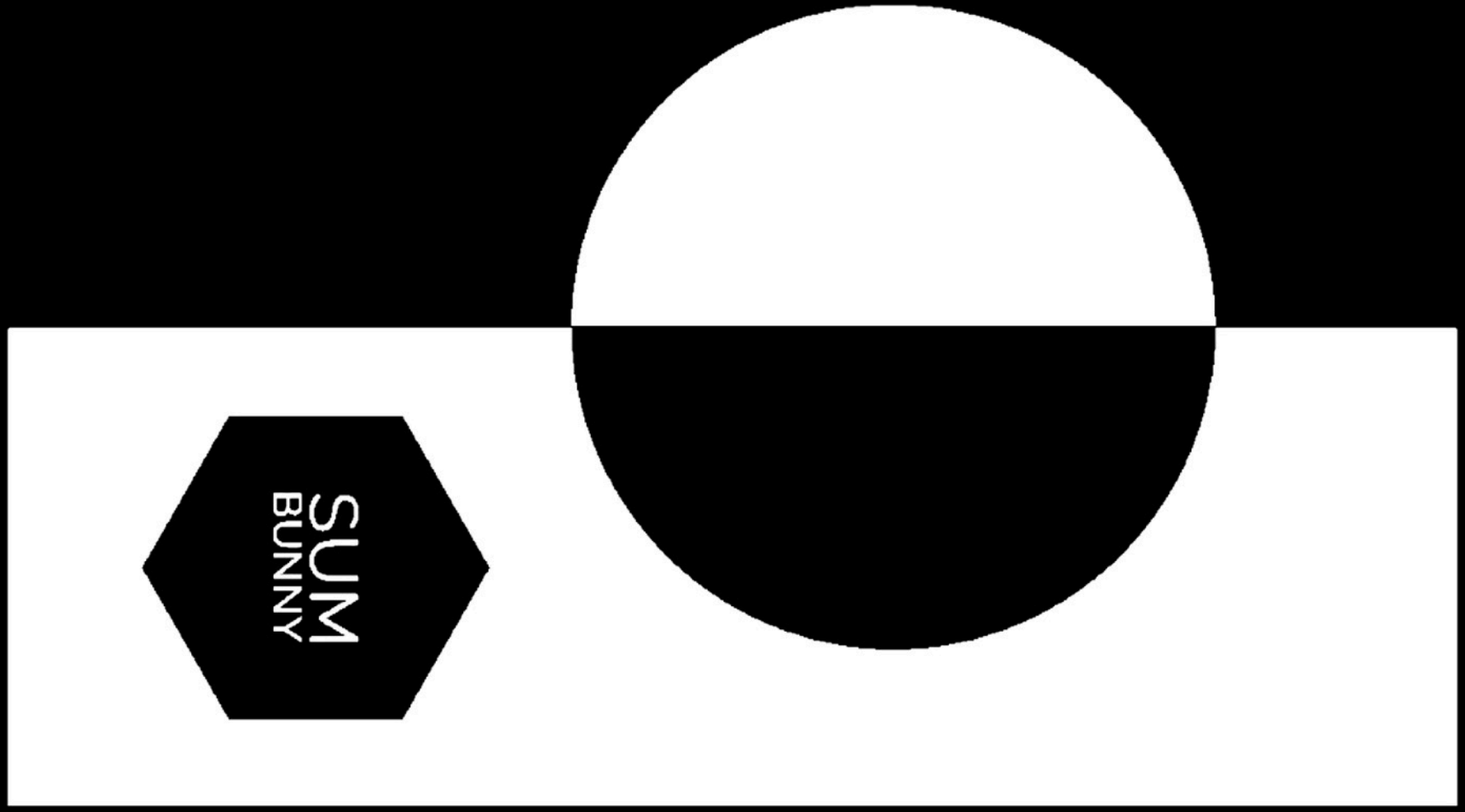
THE SEDNA CODEX



SUM BUNNY

THE SEDNA CODEX

Founding Document of The Sedna Institute

By Sum Bunny

2026

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THE SEDNA CODEX

Founding Document of The Sedna Institute

AUTHOR: Sum Bunny

STATUS: Founding Instrument / Proposal for Ratification

LOCATION: Greenland (Kalaallit Nunaat)

MISSION: The Integration of Inquiry, Obligation, and Catalysis

PROLOGUE: THE FIRST MOTION

An Offering, Not a Plan

Before a single wall is built or a single sensor is placed, one question must be answered: *Does this serve the people who belong to this land?*

I know the history of "scientific proposals" in Indigenous territories. It is a history of violation disguised as discovery. I have seen sacred mountaintops severed for telescopes; I have seen the Shoshone lands in Nevada scarred by nuclear testing in the name of technical progress. I know that for centuries, Western science has treated Indigenous land as a laboratory and Indigenous people as subjects.

I refuse to let the Sedna Institute continue this lineage.

Therefore, this Codex is not a blueprint I intend to impose upon Greenland. It is a tool I am offering to the **Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC)** and the people of **Kalaallit Nunaat**.

I recognize that the Indigenous worldview is not merely a "perspective" to be consulted, but a survival technology that can save the planet. I believe that unless Western science learns to follow this authority, it will destroy the systems it claims to study.

This entire document is a Request for Permission.

I place these tools—the Veto, the Kill Switch, the Anti-Extraction Lock—at the feet of the Kalaallit leadership.

- If you say this structure serves your sovereignty, I will help build it.
- If you say it does not, this project ends.

The right to say "No" is the most fundamental definition of sovereignty. I submit to that right before I begin.

PART I: THE MANIFESTO

The Future of Inquiry

1. The Diagnosis

The Arctic does not need another graph.

For fifty years, the world has sent scientists to the ice. Cores have been drilled, salinity measured, and the retreat of the glaciers tracked with terrifying precision. Humanity has terabytes of data that tell us exactly how fast the world is dying. And yet, the world does not change.

I believe we have failed to act not because we lack information, but because we lack **integrated understanding**.

The glacier has been treated as a passive object to be measured, rather than a "memory-bearing architecture" that holds the history of the planet. We have studied the "seams" of the ice—the friction points holding the system together—without building the cultural capacity to understand what happens when they break.

I propose The Sedna Institute as a correction to this failure.

Located in Greenland, and governed by Kalaallit (Greenlandic) authority, Sedna is not a traditional research station. It is a machine for human insight. It operates on a radical premise: Science measures the wound, but culture heals the body.

2. The Constellation System

The old model of Arctic research is solitary: a scientist in a parka, alone with a sensor. The model I propose is a **triad**. I call it the Constellation System.

No one works alone. Every residency at the Institute links three distinct minds:

1. **The Scientist** (The Baseline & Inquiry)
2. **The Kalaallit Knowledge Holder** (The Governance & Obligation)
3. **The Artist** (The Catalyst)

They live together. They work together. The glaciologist does not just hand a report to a musician three months later. They stand together on the ice sheet. The Kalaallit knowledge holder explains not just the history, but the **obligations** of the land. The artist disrupts the rigid thinking of the lab.

3. The Creative Catalyst Principle

Breakthrough science rarely comes from following instructions. It comes from reframing questions.

The Sedna Institute embeds artists directly into scientific teams—not to decorate outcomes or communicate results, but to **expand the range of thinking inside the research itself.**

Artists at Sedna are treated as **creative catalysts**. They are present in labs, in the field, and in design sessions. They ask questions that do not fit grant templates. They notice patterns others ignore. They make it permissible to explore ideas before they are "safe."

One early exemplar of this role is Björk.

Her career demonstrates how biological systems, technology, and emotion can coexist in a single mode of thinking. She represents the type of mind Sedna invites—not a requirement, not a centerpiece, but a proof that this mode works.

At Sedna, art is not the output. **Better science is.**

4. Culture as a Geopolitical Shield

Why does this matter? Because you cannot protect what you do not respect.

If Greenland remains only a "scientific frontier," it stays vulnerable to extraction. It becomes a place of "unearned complexity," where resources are removed without containment.

But when you fill a place with culture—when you turn it into a generator of ideas that the whole world watches—you change its value. **Culture is a shield.** I declare that the value of this island is not in what can be dug out of it, but in what can be learned *from* it.

PART II: THE CHARTER

Governance, Succession, and the Mechanics of Refusal

PREAMBLE

The Sedna Institute defines itself not only by what it generates, but by what it refuses to metabolize. This Charter supersedes all funding agreements, partnership contracts, and leadership directives.

ARTICLE I: THE GOVERNING CONSTELLATION

Authority is not vested in a Director, but in a **Triad of Standing**. No decision regarding the Institute's strategic direction is valid without the unanimous consent of these three bodies:

1. **The Council of Obligation (Kalaallit Authority)**
    - **Power:** Absolute Veto over land use, data release, and site access.
    - **Function:** To judge whether Institute activities violate the *obligations to the land*.
2. **The Directorate of Inquiry (Scientific Authority)**
    - **Power:** Authority over research methodology and academic rigor.
    - **Function:** To ensure the *integrity of the data*.
3. **The Catalyst Circle (Cultural Authority)**
    - **Power:** Authority over the *translation and dissemination* of findings.
    - **Function:** To ensure the work remains legible to human experience.

ARTICLE II: THE DOCTRINE OF REFUSAL

To prevent the erosion of restraint, the right to refuse is explicit, protected, and non-negotiable.

Section 2.1: The Anti-Extraction Lock (Data Sovereignty)

The Institute refuses to treat knowledge as a raw material that creates value only when exported.

- **The Lock:** All data generated by the Institute is subject to a **Stewardship License**.
- **The Kill Switch:** The Council of Obligation holds the physical and cryptographic keys to sever external data feeds if a partner uses Sedna data to optimize extraction elsewhere.

Section 2.2: The Epistemic Parity Lock

The Institute refuses the "consultation model." Integration is structural, not ornamental.

- **The Lock: Co-Authorship Mandate.** No research leaves the Institute unless the contributions of the Kalaallit Knowledge Holder and the Artist are credited with parity to the Scientist.

Section 2.3: The Slow-Failure Lock (Infrastructure Resilience)

The Institute refuses to build architecture that relies on continuous external inputs to remain habitable.

- **The Lock: The Fourth-Night Standard.** All physical infrastructure must demonstrate passive thermal survivability and "containment capacity" for failure time. We do not build "glass-walled buildings" that fail immediately upon power loss.
- **The Mechanism:** Designs must prove they can keep occupants alive through the "Fourth Night" of a grid failure without external support.

ARTICLE III: SUCCESSION AND CONTINUITY

To prevent the "Second-Generation Failure" where prestige replaces purpose, succession is designed to be high-friction.

Section 3.1: The Cooling-Off Period

No individual may serve more than two consecutive terms in the Directorate of Inquiry. A mandatory 3-year "cooling-off" period is required before reappointment.

Section 3.2: The Youth Vector

The Council of Obligation must include at least two seats for members under the age of 30 with full voting power.

Section 3.3: The Non-Replication Norm

The Sedna model is site-specific. The Institute forbids the franchising or "branding" of "Sedna Institutes" in other locations. We do not scale; we resonate.

PART III: SUPPORT ARCHITECTURE

University Alignment Strategy

Universities are the only global institutions that can help Sedna without owning it. They support the Institute not as directors, but as **load-bearers**.

1. **Universities as Load-Bearers:** Universities absorb cost, risk, and long timelines. They carry the weight of administration, while decision-making authority remains in Greenland.

2. **Faculty Secondments:** Instead of "collaborations," Sedna uses temporary re-rooting. A university sends a senior thinker to Sedna for 6–24 months. They remain on their home salary but work under Sedna governance.

3. **Joint Chairs (Reversed Prestige):** Universities co-fund chairs that are **based at Sedna** (e.g., *Professor of Cryosphere Systems, Sedna Institute / Visiting: MIT*). This reverses the flow of prestige.

4. **Graduate Training Without Extraction:** PhD students remain enrolled at home but attend field seasons at Sedna. They do not "own" Sedna data by default. This avoids data colonialism while shaping the next generation of thinkers.

PART IV: GENEALOGY

Why This Will Work

Sedna is a synthesis of seven proven institutional models:

1. **The Scale Model: CERN.** Proved rival nations can collaborate if the "territory" is pure knowledge.

2. **The Restraint Model: Svalbard Global Seed Vault.** Proved that "preservation of memory" is a planetary insurance policy requiring deep time.

3. **The Governance Model: The Antarctic Treaty.** Used institutional gravity to "freeze" territorial claims and ban military activity.

4. **The Complexity Model: Santa Fe Institute.** Broke disciplinary silos to value the *quality of the question*over the immediate answer.

5. **The Integration Model: Bauhaus.** Treated artists as engineers of perception who reshape material reality.

6. **The Interdependence Model: ISS.** Created infrastructure so complex that withdrawal became reputationally impossible.

7. **The Authority Model: Haida Gwaii Watchmen.** Operationalized Indigenous sovereignty through presence and the right of refusal.

EPILOGUE: THE NEXT MOTION

The Inaugural Act

If you choose this path, and if the Council of Obligation consents to hold the keys, I believe the necessary next step is clear.

We do not begin with a press release. We begin with a signal.

I recommend that we formally invite **Björk** to Greenland to create the inaugural event. This will not be a concert. It will be the first act of the Constellation System—a collaboration between her, a Kalaallit knowledge holder, and a cryosphere scientist.

This event will serve as the **Kick-Off for the Capital Campaign**. It will demonstrate to the world exactly what Sedna is: a place where science listens, art translates, and the land governs.

I await your signal.

Sum Bunny

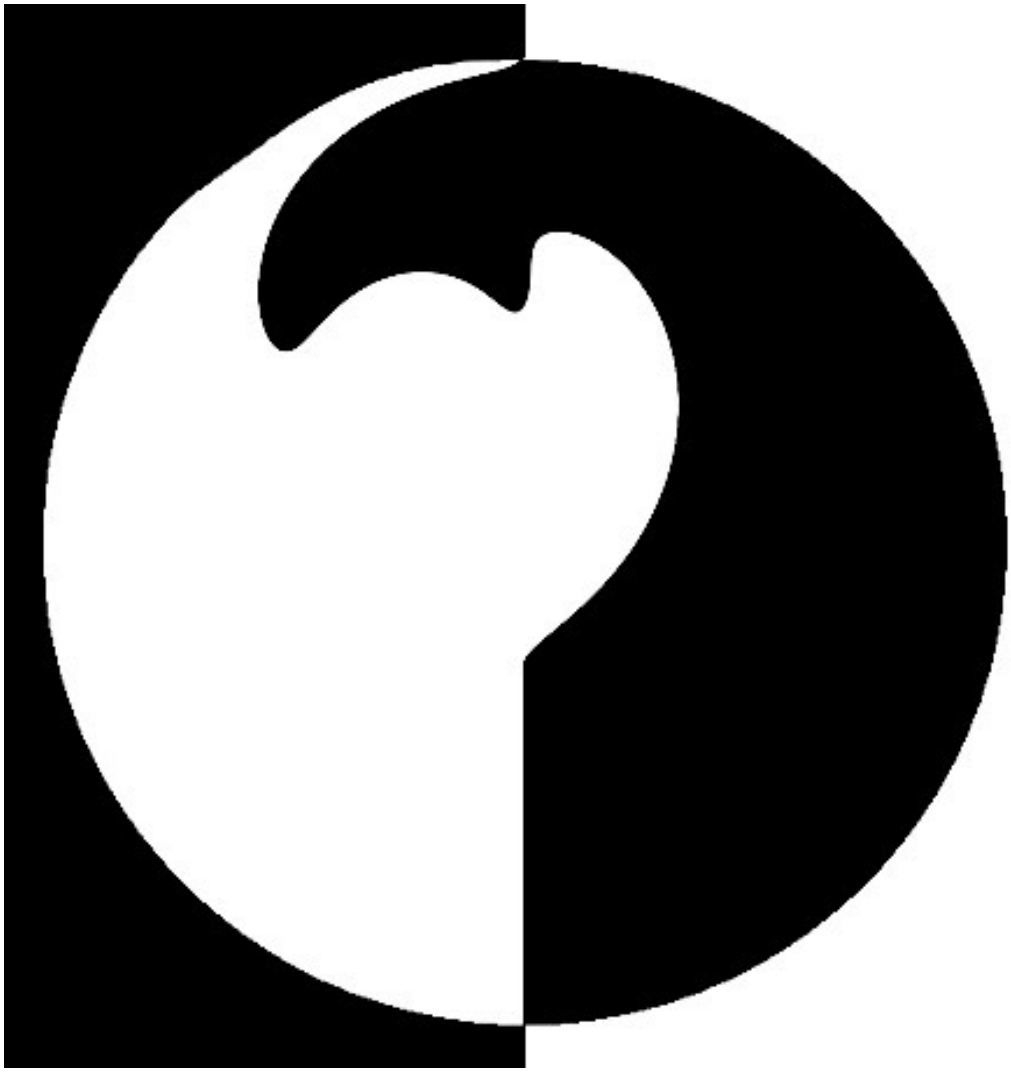
1st edition published here

on the Internet Archive!

Part of the Sum Bunny Canon (Ark Hive Press, 2026)

This was written through a collaboration between a human author and AI systems acting as analytical tools. The machines provided structure; the human provided judgment. Nothing appears here that the author did not personally create, refine, choose, and claim.

HEY JOSIANE,
LET'S GO FOR A WALK AND LOOK AT THE SKY.
SUM BUNNY LOVES YOU!!!



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